



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

An Programme of Archaeological Observation,  
Investigation and Recording on land  
north of Culworth Hall, Culworth,  
Northamptonshire



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

2 Bolton House  
Wootton Hall Park  
Northampton NN4 8BE  
t. 01604 700493 f. 01604 702822  
e. [sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:sparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk)  
w. [www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.northantsarchaeology.co.uk)



Northamptonshire  
County Council

David J Leigh

Report 12/127

July 2012



**STAFF**

Project Manager Stephen Parry MA, FSA, MfA  
Text David J Leigh BA Hons  
Fieldwork David J Leigh  
Illustrations Amir Bassir BSc, PlfA  
Project Archive Theodora Anastasiadou-Leigh BA MA (Bham)  
MA (York)

**QUALITY CONTROL**

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	Pat Chapman		
Verified by	Andy Chapman		
Approved by	Stephen Parry		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during groundworks connected with the construction of a new gallop on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire. Undisturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording: Planning Ref: S/2011/0826/MAF	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Pasture	
Future work	No	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire	
Study area (sq metres)	2550	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 54650 47500	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Stephen Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs P Cowley	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	October 2011	
End date	November 2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession No)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical		
Paper	Northamptonshire Archaeology	Watching brief forms (4) Colour slides (12) black and white contact prints (12) Digital photographs (36)
Digital		Report text and figures
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire October – November 2011	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 12/127	
Author	David J Leigh	
Date	July 2012	

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**A PROGRAMME OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING  
ON LAND NORTH OF  
CULWORTH HALL, CULWORTH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2011**

*Abstract*

*A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs P Cowley during groundworks connected with the construction of a new gallop on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire. Undisturbed soils were present throughout the investigation area. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken between October and November 2011 during groundworks connected with the construction of a new gallop on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 54650 47500: Planning Ref: S/2011/0826/MAF Figs 1 and 3). The work was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs P Cowley following a requirement for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording in a brief for archaeological work (Mordue 2011) issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council on the 22 September 2011. The work was carried out following a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire archaeology (Leigh 2011) and adhering to the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008) and adhered to the national Planning Policy Statement (PPS 5) *Planning for the Historic Environment* (HE12.3).

**2 BACKGROUND**

**2.1 Location and topography**

The village of Culworth lies approximately 13km north-east of Banbury. The investigation area lies at an approximate height of between 140m and 175m aOD. The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey of Great Britain as comprising Taynton Formation Ooidal Limestone, Horsehay Formation Sandstone in the east of the site with Northampton Sand and Ironstone, and Whitby Formation towards the west (BGS Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex>).

## 2.2 Historical Background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest and to the north of the village of Culworth, the village being recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086AD as *Culeorde*.

Close by to the north of the site, the Northamptonshire County Council, Historic Environment Record lists a series of complex crop-marks comprising a number of enclosures, linear features and probable pits which have been interpreted as remnants of a prehistoric settlement.

Evidence of early agricultural practices lie within the site itself in the form of eroded ridge and furrow, with further remnants lying immediately to the south of the western boundary of the site along with other associated earthworks.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out within the site itself. Up to the present application the site has comprised an area of pasture land.

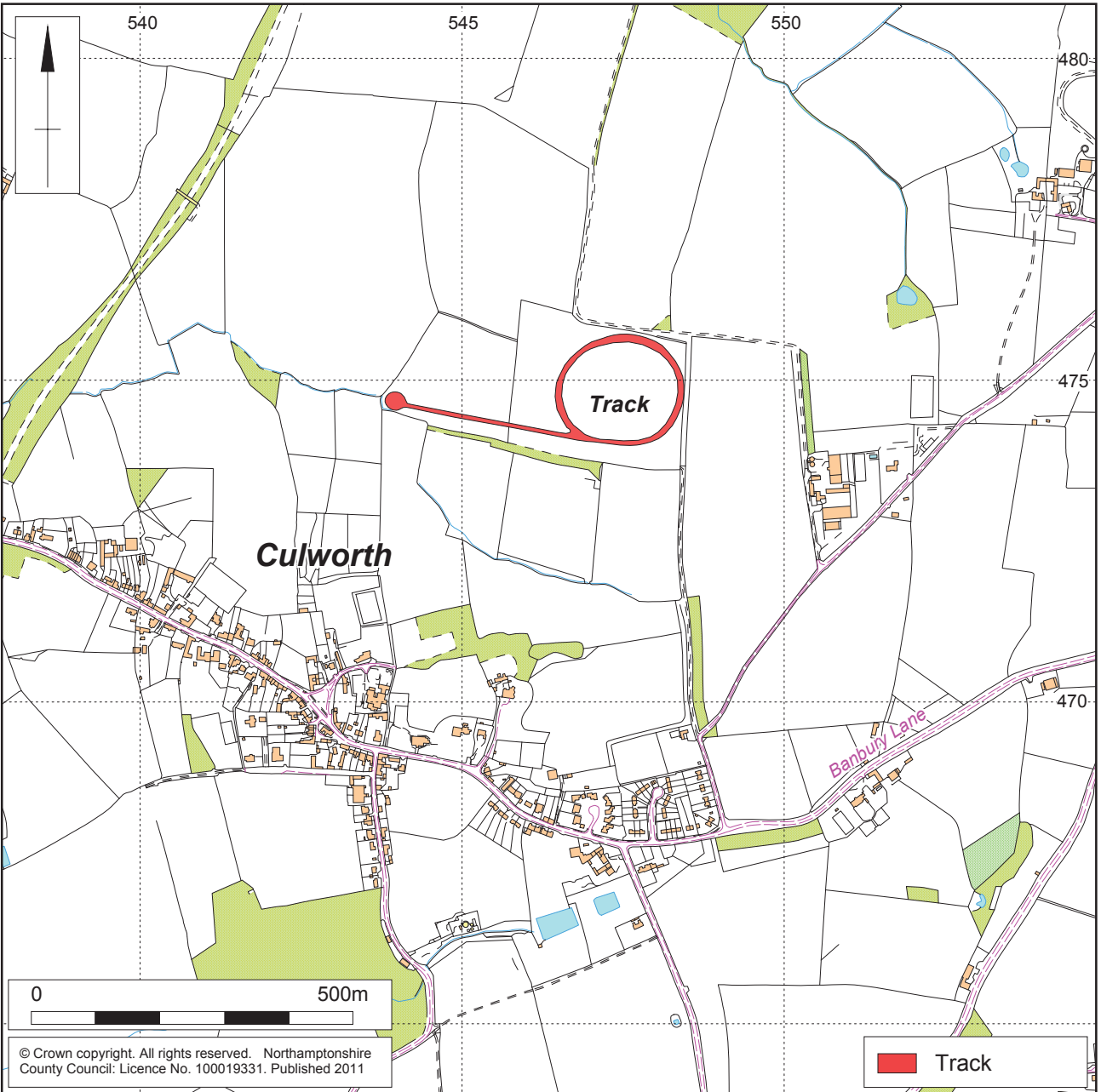
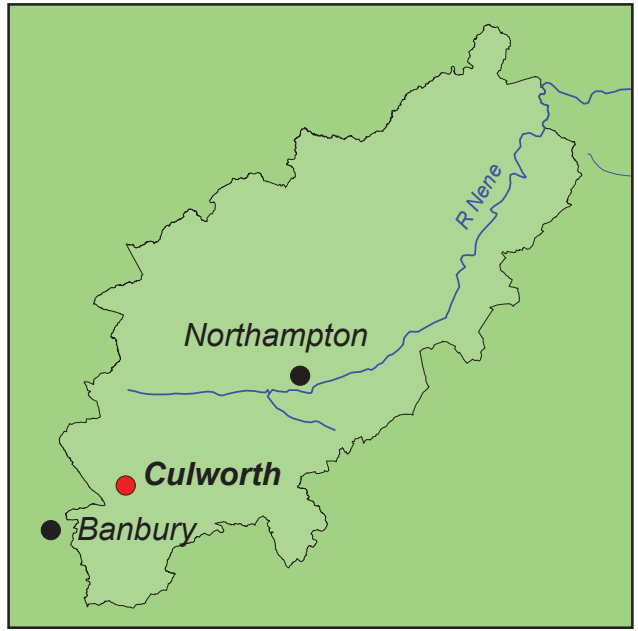
## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks connected with the construction of the new gallop and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

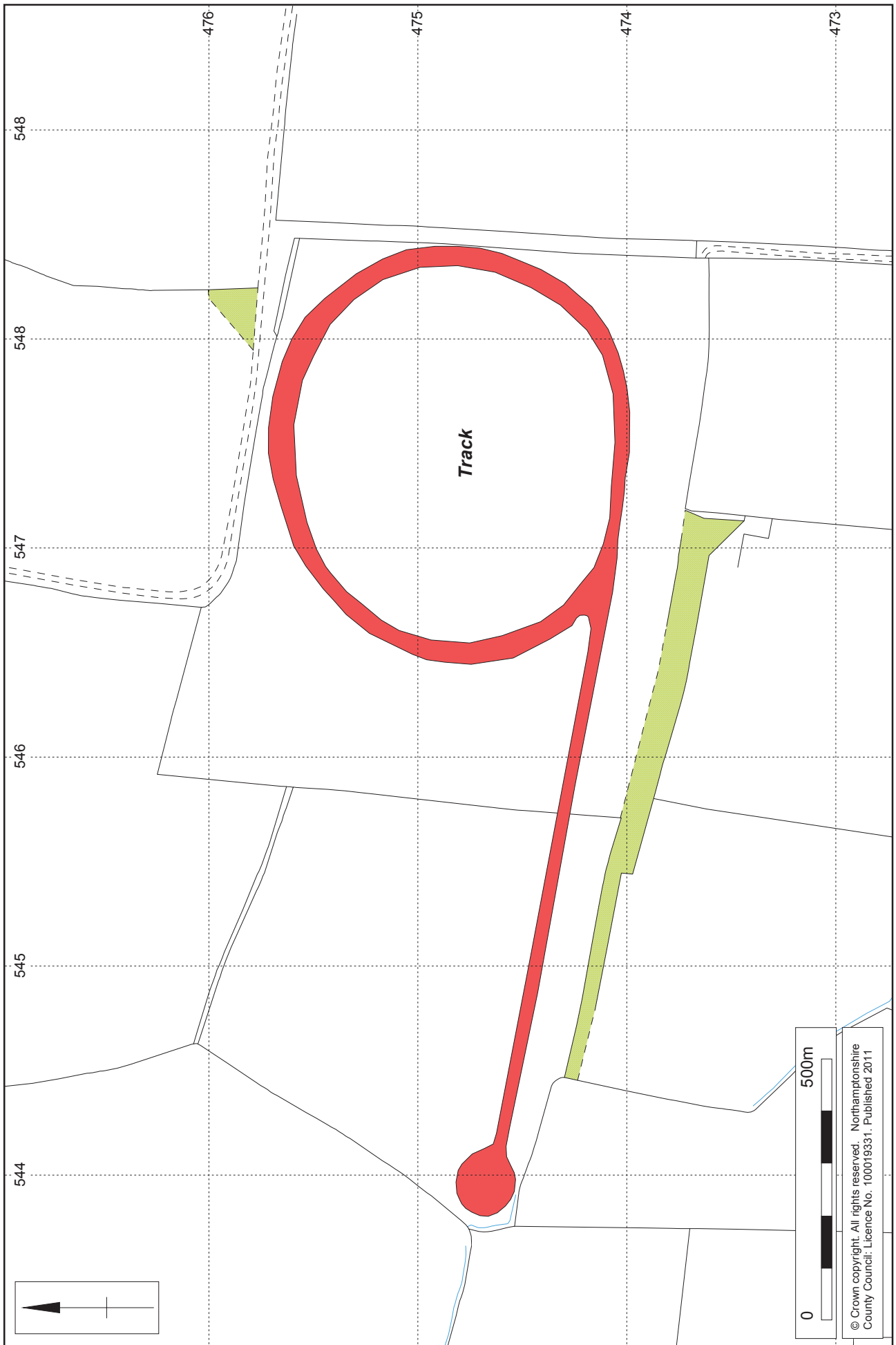
The fieldwork was undertaken between October and November 2011 during groundworks for the new gallop. The groundworks were carried out using a 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and comprised the removal of topsoil and partial removal of subsoil (Fig 4) and the excavation of a central drainage trench 0.20m deep and the laying of a plastic drain pipe (Figs 5 and 6), following which the new gallop surface was laid. The new gallop measured 3m wide and had a total width of 850m (Fig 2).

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets (NA 2011). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the standards and guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:2500

The investigation area Fig 2





The investigation area prior to the start of groundworks, looking north-west Fig 3



The gallop during the soil strip, looking south-west Fig 4

#### 4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

A consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the investigation area (Fig 7). The natural substratum was encountered approximately 0.50m below present ground level in the eastern half of the gallop and comprised pale white-brown fragmented limestone. This was overlain by mid-pale brown silt loam subsoil, up to 0.25m thick increasing to 0.50m thick in the western half of the gallop, containing very occasional irregular stones. Sealing this was grey-brown silt loam topsoil, up to 0.25m thick, containing very occasional irregular stones and fragments of modern ceramic building material and occasional small fragments of plastic in the upper surface of the topsoil.

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The excavation of the drainage trench, looking south-east Fig 5



The laying of the drainage pipe, looking south-west Fig 6



The stratigraphic sequence in the eastern half of the gallop Fig 7

## 5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	4
Colour slides	12
Black and white contacts and negatives	12
Digital photographs	36

The project archive will be held with Northamptonshire Archaeology until such time as a suitable depository has been appointed.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

Undisturbed soils were recorded throughout the investigation area. Occasional small fragments of modern ceramic building material and plastic were noted in the upper surface of the topsoil. The lack of any artefactual evidence would suggest that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the investigation area.

The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BGS 2009 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>, British Geological Survey website
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, English Heritage procedural document
- IfA 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute for Archaeologists
- NA 2011 *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual*, Northamptonshire Archaeology
- Mordue, L, 2011 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation Recording, Analysis and Publication of works on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire County Council
- Leigh, D J, 2011 *Specification for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication during groundworks on land north of Culworth Hall, Culworth, Northamptonshire*, Northamptonshire Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation



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